

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be acceptable to applicants, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given on October 24, 2007, by James Ortega.

#### IN THE CLAIMS

**Cancel claims 51 and 52.**

**Amend claim 1 as follows:**

1. A nonwoven fiber article, comprising:  
a first surface comprising a pattern formed of chopped nonwoven fibers ~~dewatered from a slurry to lay~~ directionally aligned in at least three directions in a plurality of corresponding ~~intersecting~~ linear formations on the same linear plane, and thus the linear formations having substantially the same thickness as the thickness of the linear plane, the fibers dewatered from a slurry that are formed on substantially the same linear plane such that fibers within linear formations in one direction are laid randomly interlaced with fibers within linear formations in other directions at intersections of the ~~intersecting~~ linear formations; and

a second surface opposed to and coextensive with the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered from the slurry ~~such that they are laid to lay~~ randomly dispersed throughout the second surface.

**Amend claim 14 as follows:**

14. A nonwoven fiber article, comprising:

a first surface comprising a pattern formed of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered ~~from a slurry to~~ collectively aligned lay horizontally dispersed in at least three two or more intersecting predetermined directions on the same linear plane, and thus the ; wherein the ~~two or more~~ collections in the predetermined directions are formed on having substantially the same thickness as the thickness of the linear plane, the fibers dewatered from a slurry such that fibers collectively dispersed in one of the predetermined directions are laid randomly interlaced with fibers collectively dispersed in others of the predetermined directions at intersections of the collections in the at least three two or more predetermined directions; and

a second surface opposed to and coextensive with the first surface, the second surface comprising a collection of chopped nonwoven fibers dewatered from the slurry such that they are laid to lay randomly dispersed throughout the second surface.

**Amend claim 20 as follows:**

20. A fiber article according to claim 14, wherein the fibers comprising the first surface are horizontally dispersed in linear formations extending in the at least three ~~two~~ ~~or more~~ predetermined directions.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1 and 4-25 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the closest prior art does not teach or reasonably suggest aligning the fibers in at least three directions where the fibers are randomly interlaced in the manner claimed.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter Y. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-6730. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 08:00 - 15:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Andrew T Piziali/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

/Peter Y. Choi/  
Examiner, Art Unit 1794  
October 24, 2007